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82402-3802**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER****PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:****NAME: Commissioner of Patents – Suryaprabha Chunduru****FROM: Ade & Company – Michael R. Williams****TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES 10 INCLUDING THIS COVER LETTER.****DATE: May 7, 2002**

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**RE: United States Patent Application no: 09/720,206
Guy et al
Nonsymbiotic Plant Hemoglobins to Maintain Cell Energy Status
EXAMINER –Suryaprabha Chunduru GROUP 1656**

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Attorney Docket # 82402-3802

EXAMINER Suryaprabha Chunduru
GROUP 1656
APPLICANT Guy et al.
SERIAL NO: 09/720,206
FILED May 3, 2001
FOR NONSYMBIOTIC PLANT HEMOGLOBINS TO MAINTAIN
CELL ENERGY STATUS

#12 / Amended
C
(N2)

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C., 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Further to our telephone conversations of May 1, May 2 and May 7,
and responsive to the office action dated February 8, 2002:

In the Claims:

Claims 28-38 are of record in this case.

Claims 28-38 stand rejected.

Please amend the claims as follows:

28.(amended) A method of Improving the agronomic
properties of a plant comprising:
maintaining plant vigor and hardiness under stressful conditions by
providing [a] the plant [having] with increased cellular levels of a nonsymbiotic
plant hemoglobin; and
growing the plant under stressful conditions, thereby allowing the
plant to develop more vigorously under adverse conditions.

29. The method according to claim 28 wherein the nonsymbiotic